

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/529,191

Examiner

RAKESH DHINGRA

Applicant(s)

HORIGUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

1792

– The **MAILING DATE** of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE dt. 02/03/10.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-19,21-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 03/19/10.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/R. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lee Stepina on 03/19/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 12, line 29 – "Fig. 55A" is amended to "Fig. 55C".

In the Claims:

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor substrate processing apparatus comprising:

a processing vessel that defines a processing space therein;

a transparent case made of quartz and disposed in the processing vessel, the transparent case including a cylinder portion and a top plate covering a top part of the cylinder portion;

a heating element, contained inside the transparent case, to generate heat inside the transparent case for heating a substrate introduced into the processing space to a predetermined temperature;

a heater plate mounted on an upper external surface of the top plate of the transparent case, to transmit the heat generated inside the transparent case to the substrate;

a substrate holding member having an axis penetrating the top plate of the transparent case and the heater plate and projecting from an upper surface of the heater plate, the axis having a plurality of arm portions to hold the substrate at a position spaced from and opposite to the upper surface of the heater plate located below the substrate; and

a rotational drive part configured to rotatively drive the axis of the substrate holding member.

Claim 20 – Cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-19, 21-25 allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 11 - Closest prior art Shinpei et al (JP 09-030893) does not teach claim 11 limitation "a substrate holding member having an axis penetrating the top plate of the transparent case and the heater plate and projecting from an upper surface of the heater plate, the axis having a plurality of arm portions to hold the substrate at a

position spaced from and opposite to the upper surface of the heater plate located below the substrate" in the context of remaining limitations of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAKESH DHINGRA whose telephone number is (571)272-5959. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Parviz Hassanzadeh/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792

/R. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 1792